

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /189 W
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R 291603Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8385

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PINR SY UR

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF NEW SOVIET AID OFFERS TO SYRIA

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

REF: DAMASCUS 0419

1. DURING APRIL 27 CONVERSATION WITH USUALLY WELL-INFORMED
FIRST SECRETARY OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY MOSCOW, EMBOFF MENTIONED
REPORTS OF NNEW SOVIET OFFERS OF LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC AID TO
SYRIA ALONG LINES OF INFO REPORTED DAMASCUS REFTEL.

2. EGYPTAIN EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT IT IS EGYPTAIN
EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH OFFERS WERE MADE. HE
MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY "VERY LARGE CREDITS" FOR 1) SECOND
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PHASE OF EUPHRATES DAM PROJECT; 2) ACCESS HIGHWAYS AND ROADS
TO EUPHRATES DAM PROJECT; 3) FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PORT

OF LATAKIA. REPAYMENT TERMS WERE REPORTEDLY VERY LIBERAL, EXTENDING FOR 22 YEARS WITH LIBERAL GRACE PERIOD AND INTEREST RATES OF ABOUT TWO OR THREE PERCENT. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICER APPEARED UNWILLING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT FURTHER, BUT EXPRESSED OPINION -- MAKING POINT SIMILAR TO THAT MADE IN LAST SENECE OF DAMASCUS REFTEL -- THAT THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT SYRIANS WILL ACCEPT NEW SOVIET OFFERS, AND EVEN IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED DEGREE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER SYRIA MAY BE NO GREATER THAN IT IS NOW.
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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